

IV. Remarks.

The Examiner entered the following rejection in the office action.

1. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Buckley-Golder et al. (B-G et al.).

B-G teaches use of a microscopic point contact to densify a workpiece, col. 3, lines 20-52. The point contact is used to reduce the tool forces which in turn extend tool life, col. 3, lines 31-33. The reference teaches away from a broader contact patch, for example, a line contact, col. 3, line 32, or in the case of the inventive process a contact patch simultaneously spanning the entire width of the part to be flow formed, see Fig. 1. Further, the tool (4) described in B-G moves both radially and axially as it traverses the workpiece, col. 3, lines 23-30.

On the other hand, as to amended claim 1 B-G does not teach forming a multiple-ribbed surface solely by a radial movement of a roller. In other words the inventive surface is formed in a single radial movement that is only performed in a direction normal to the spinning axis of the part. B-G requires a radial and lateral movement to allow the roller to traverse the workpiece.

Further, the term "multiple ribbed" as claimed when used in reference to a pulley has a meaning known in the art.¹ Pulleys having a multiple ribbed surface are used to engage multiple ribbed belts. Such a pulley is shown and described in Fig. 3 of the application. Multiple ribbed belts are used with pulleys on vehicle engine accessory drive systems, for example, to drive an air conditioner compressor or power steering pump. B-G does not teach a multiple ribbed surface in the part as claimed, instead teaching a "barber-pole" effect, see B-G Fig. 4.

Therefore, claim 1 is not anticipated by B-G. Claim 3 and 22-25 depend from claim 1.

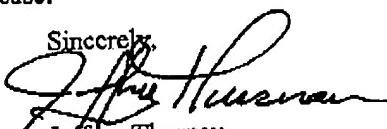
Applicant requests this rejection be withdrawn as to all claims.

V. Fees.

Fees payable for this amendment and request for extension of time may be deducted from deposit account 07-0475 in the name of The Gates Corporation.

Thank you for your attention to this case.

Date: June 10, 2005

Sincerely,

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¹ See for example, US patent number 4,464,148 which discloses a ribbed belt for engaging a ribbed pulley. US patent number 5,055,090 also teaches a ribbed belt for meshing with a ribbed pulley. Each is included in the IDS filed herewith.